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NAC - NJCCA CONFERENCE REPORT 1947

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REPORT

FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OF

JAPANESE CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS

TORONTO - ONTARIO

August 30 - September 2, 1947

Provincial Organizations Represented

B.C. JCCA, Greenwood, B.C.
Southern Alberta Youth Council, Lethbridge, Alta.
Southern Alberta Japanese Association, Raymond, Alta.
Manitoba JCCA, Winnipeg, Man.
Council for Ontario Japanese Canadian Organizations, Toronto, Ont.
Montreal Japanese Canadian Organization, Montreal, Quebec

Delegates Attending Conference

British Columbia: S. Homma, H. Onotera, T. Kobayashi
Alberta: K. Taguchi, K. Shigehiro
Manitoba: T. Umezuki, H. Hirose
Ontario: E. Ide, R. Obata, G. Tanaka
Quebec: H. Okuda

Special Guest Representative

Mike M. Masaoka, National Legislative Director
Japanese American Citizens League

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During the Conference sessions, Mr. Masaoka lent invaluable assistance to the delegates, especially so during the delegates' all-night meeting in a caucus held from Sunday, midnight, August 31 to 8.30 AM Monday morning, September 1, 1947.

Although the caucus meeting is not reported in detail in this conference report, it can be stated that the results of this all-night session contributed greatly to the successful conclusion of the conference.

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Erratum: This Office begs the indulgence of the reader for grammatical and typographical errors in the report which, of necessity, was written and mimeographed under conditions where time and staff assistance have been at a premium.

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Note: The above table of contents is outlined in very brief form and in no way indicates the great amount of worthwhile discussion which took place between the delegates and the concrete work accomplished.

Much of the conference report has been summarized in the form of the actual finished work accomplished by the delegates as indicated in pages 3 to 8 inclusive.

Submitted by-

George Tanaka,
National Executive Secretary,
Toronto, September 27, 1947.

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Memo on National Organization

Location of National Headquarters

Toronto to be the interim headquarters until next conference.

Date and Place of the Next National Conference

Place - Winnipeg Date - Around Easter weekend, 1948.

National Council Officers

			Nominator	Vote
President	-	Roger Obata (Ont.)	B.C.	Carried
1st Vice President	-	Hideo Onotera (B.C.)	Alta.	Carried
2nd Vice President	-	Harold Hirose (Man.)	Ont.	Carried
Recording Secretary	-	Kiyoto Shigehiro (Alta.)	B.C.	Carried
Treasurer	-	Hiroshi Okuda (Quebec)	B.C.	Carried

National Organization Budget

National Executive Secretary	$3,000.
Stenographer	1,200.
Rent	360.
Equipment	200.
Telegraph and Telephone	360.
Typewriter	190.
Travelling, two trips across Canada @ $6.00 per day; travelling expenses	400.
Trips to Ottawa	350.
Public Relations	500.
Supplies	1,000.
Total	$7,560.

(This does not include special appropriations for special projects.)

Allocation of National Budget:

British Columbia	$2,000.
Alberta	1,200.
Manitoba	500.
Ontario	3,000.
Quebec	800.
Total	$7,500.

Rough Draft of Constitution for the National Organization as Drawn Up in Committee During Special Conference Sessions

1. Name of Organization - Japanese Canadian Citizens Assocation

2. The National Headquarters of this organization shall be in the city designated by the National Council at the National Conference.

3. Object of the Organization - To enable Japanese Canadian Organizations in Canada to work together as a unified whole in order to undertake active political and collective action for the betterment and advancement of the welfare of Canadians of Japanese ancestry desirous of living in Canada as full Canadian citizens and, with the realization of the need to stress the responsibilities as well as the privileges of Canadian citizenship, to foster and spread the true spirit of Canadian democracy; to co-operate and work with all Canadian groups whose aim it is to extend to each and every Canadian citizen the fundamental democratic rights and liberties irrespective of race, creed or colour, and to co-operate with organizations in other countries with similar aims.

4. Type of National Organization

The National Organization shall be based on a Provincial Chapter system wherein each Province shall be a chapter of the National Organization but that within each respective Province the local organizations which form the Provincial Organization shall retain their autonomy until such a time as a true chapter system can be adopted in the respective Provinces concerned.

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5. Definition of a Provincial Organization

(a) It is the representative organization of the Province and is composed of the various individual organizations in the Province.

(b) Where there is no Provincial organization the leading organization can be known as the representative Provincial organization upon approval of the organizations within the Province.

6. Membership - Each Provincial chapter holds a membership in the National Organization.

7. National Council

(a) Shall be the supreme body of the National Organization.

(b) Composed of three delegates from each Provincial chapter.

(c) Each delegate given the power of one vote.

(d) Proxy vote by telegraph may be received.

8. Function of the National Council

(a) It shall formulate the policy and general program of activities of the National Organization for the ensuing year.

(b) It shall appoint a National Executive Committee.

(c) It shall appoint the National Executive Secretary for the annual term of office.

9. National Executive Committee

(a) Minimum of ten and maximum of fifteen members.

(b) Persons of non Japanese extraction shall be permitted to sit on the executive.

(c) Members to be appointed by National Council and elected by ballot at initial meeting to serve for one term or two terms.

(d) In constituting any committee the Council may name as a member thereof any person whom the council selects. Every committee when constituted by Council may with the consent of the Chairman of the National Executive Committee add any further members whom the Council considers to be able to assist in the work of the Committee.

(e) No Committee nor any member of the association shall have the power to act in the name of or on behalf of the Assocation save to the extent specifically authorized by the Council.

10. National Executive Committee Officers

(a) Chairman

(b) Vice Chairman

(c) Treasurer

(d) Corresponding Secretary

11. Function of National Executive Committee

(a) It shall assist and supervise the work of the National Executive Secretary.

(b) It shall carry out the policy and programs laid down by the National Council.

(c) It shall be authorized to augment the membership of the committee when required for the purpose of carrying out its duties.

(d) It shall determine the salary of the National Executive Secretary which should not be less than $2,000. and not more than $3,000.

12. Duties of the National Executive Secretary.

(a) He shall be directly responsible to the National Executive Committee.

(b) He shall agree to the policy laid down by the National Council, and shall

(c) carry out the work of the National Organization.

(c) He shall be the sole person to accept service of legal document on the behalf of the society.

(d) Any writs of summons to be used in the name of and behalf of the Council shall be done by the said National Secretary.

13. Annual National Convention

(a) The National Organization shall convene in the form of a National Council once a year at a National Conference, if necessary.

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Annual National Convention - cont'd.

(b) The National Council shall be composed of representative delegates from each Provincial body.

(c) The National Council is the supreme body of the National Organization.

(d) The place of the next conference be decided during each National Conference.

(e) Emergency conferences may be called by the National President upon the endorsation of three or more Provincial chapters.

14. Auditors - Two auditors shall be elected by the National Conference at the National Convention and they shall have at all times access to all financial books and accounts of the Association.

15. National Organization Budget

(a) Salary - National Executive Secretary	$3,000.
(b) Salary - Stenographer	1,200.
(c) Office expenses, travelling expenses, equipment, etc.	3,300.
Total Budget	$7,500.

16. Amendments

(a) These by-laws may be amended by the agreement of the National Council and ratified by the National Council provided that two months previous notice in writing has been made to the National Council Secretary.

(b) The Council may amend any part of these by-laws, save with respect to the amendment of by-laws, but such amendment, unless previously confirmed at a special executive meeting shall remain in force and effect only until the next conference.

(c) The Constitution may be amended by the petition of any Provincial chapter submitted in writing to the National Executive Secretary provided that two months notice shall have been given in writing to the said executive, and shall be considered and ratified at the next following conference, at which three quarter majority is requisite for passing of such proposed amendment to the Constitution.

The following Motions passed at the National Conference

1. "Propose National Organization to be based on Provincial Chapter system wherein each Province shall be a chapter of the National Organization but that within each respective Province the local organizations which form the Provincial Organization shall retain their autonomy until such a time as a true chapter system can be adopted in the respective Provinces concerned."

(Motion moved by Ontario; seconded by British Columbia; carried.)

2. "Resolved that an Interim Committee be set up for the purpose of affectuating the wishes of this organization conference and that the executive committee be instructed to obtain proper legal advice in drafting a permanent constitution for this Association and that when this permanent constitution is prepared, it be submitted to the respective Provincial organizations for ratification."

(Motion moved by Mr. Hideo Onotera (B.C.); seconded by Mr. Harold Hirose, (Man.) Motion carried unanimously.

3 "That the next National Conference be held in Winnipeg around Easter time, 1948."

Accepted by Manitoba delegate subject to final ratification by Manitoba J.C.C.A.

(Motion moved by British Columbia; seconded by Alberta; Carried.)

4 "That the per Province national budget assessment as follows: (B.C.-$2,000; Alta.-$1,200; Man.-$500; Ont.-$3,000; Quebec-$800.) be adopted for this term subject to any changes deemed necessary by the National Executive Committee and approved by the National Council and should donations exceed the estimated National budget sum of $ 7,500.00, an additional $ 700.00 may be added and that any amount over and above $ 8,200.00 be placed in the reserve fund."
(Motion moved by Manitoba; seconded by British Columbia with co-operated amendment by Ontario; Carried.

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Motions which were passed during the final conferernce session on Tuesday, Sept, 2/47.

5. "When the Government's decision regarding the terms of reference, which it is expected will be announced shortly as a result of the meeting between Mr. Brewin and the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State on Tuesday, August 26, 1947, is made at that time Justice H.I. Bird will be approached by a representative of the National Organization in order to obtain a clear picture as to his opinion of the terms and his plans and stipulations regarding the claims commission hearings. Should he be in Vancouver at the time the B.C. chapter will arrange a meeting with him but if he is in Eastern Canada at the time, the National Executive Secretary will arrange a meeting with him." Motion Carried.

6. "That the National Organization write Ottawa for full information regarding the stranded Japanese Canadians in Japan." Motion Carried.

7. "That each Provincial Chapter obtain full information as soon as possible on each individual case of Japanese Nationals living in their respective Provinces who have applied for naturalization and send the information to the National office." - Motion Carried.

8. "That the National Organization co-operate closely with the New Canadian in the matter of news coverage on national matters with the hope that the New Canadian may some day become the official organ of the National Organization." Moved by Ontario; Seconded by British Columbia; Carried.

9. "That the National Organization Fund Drive commence immediately and officially terminate on November 30 1947." Moved by Que. Seconded by B.C. - Carried.

10. "That the National Organization take over the responsibility of active leadership from the Co-operative Committee with the hope that the Co-operative Committee lend full support in all public relations work." Motion Carried.
(Note - the success of the Co-operative Committee's work has largely been due to the magnificent job which was carried out by Mrs. MacMillan, the Co-operative Committee secretary. It must be noted now that Mrs. MacMillan will soon be leaving for Formosa where she will continue her fine work as a Missionary. It is doubtful whether anyone is available to carry on the Co-operative Committee secretaryship and it is improbable that anyone as capable as Mrs. MacMillan has proved to be, could be obtained. This situation within the Co-operative Committee Executive gives good reason at this time for the National Organization to take over a greater share of the responsibility of leadership.)

11. "That the National Executive Committee be authorized on behalf of the National Organization to present to Mrs. MacMillan in token of great appreciation for her fine work on behalf of the Japanese Canadian cause, a gift of money."
-Moved by Quebec and seconded by Ontario. Motion Carried.

12. "That the Japanese Canadian Citizens Association be used as a temporary name for the National Organization." Moved by British Columbia; seconded by Manitoba. Motion Carried.

13. "That the National Organization accept responsibility for the publication of a historical and educational book based on the evacuation as seen through the eyes of the Nisei and Issei." Motion moved by Ontario; seconded by British Columbia; Carried.

The Following Resolutions adopted at the National Conference

Re: National and Provincial Organization Membership.
Resolution: "It was agreed by the delegates that a Provincial Chapter system be adopted wherein the representative Provincial Organizations shall hold a chapter membership in the National Organization and that for the present, the various local organizations which comprise the membership of the respective organizations shall be permitted to retain their autonomy. It was also agreed by the delegates that since a true chapter system is by far the most effective system of organization on a national scale, it be the ultimate goal of each Provincial Organization to organize such a system within their Province.

Resolution: "Conference delegates will be recognized as the Interim Committee."

Resolution: "That the National Executive Committee correspond with Saskatchewan in order to enlist their co-operation as well as their membership to be ratified at next year's conference."

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Resolutions adopted in the National Conference - Cont'd.

Resolution: "Resolved this conference go on record that George Tanaka and Tommy Shoyama be approached as to their availability to the position of National Executive Secretary and that if both are available the Executive Committee be empowered to select either one for above mentioned position. If neither are available the Executive Committee is hereby instructed to investigate other possible candidates and to submit the names of those available to all Provincial Chapters not later than the 1st of October and that if no specific objections are raised to any or all of the suggested names within one week by the Provincial Chapters, the Executive Committee will be given the responsibility to select the Executive Secretary. The above mentioned being subject to final ratification by the respective Provincial Chapters from the list of candidates against whom no objection has been raised."

Resolution to a Committee for Bill of Rights

Whereas, a parliamentary committee on human rights and fundamental freedoms was established at the last session of Parliament; and

Whereas, the Prime Minister in his closing remark stated that he looked forward to the reestablishment of this committee when Parliament reconvenes; and

Whereas, recent events in Canada have made Canadians conscious of the real and urgent need for a bill of rights as part of our Constitution in Canada; and

Whereas, this need has been made particularly evident in the case of the rights of minorities, among them Japanese Canadians; and

Whereas, a bill of rights will serve to guarantee to all Canandians regardless of race colour, or creed, their democratic rights, be it therefore resolved that this conference go on record as strongly urging the reestablishment of the parliamentary committee on human rights and fundamental freedoms at the next session of Parliament, and further, that this parliamentary committee go on record as favoring the establishment of a bill of rights in Canada as part of the Canadian Constitution;

We further resolve to co-operate with any organization having similar objectives and offer our support in this connection to the committee for a bill of rights.

National Conference of Japanese Canadian Organizations

Resolution Re: Fair Employment Practices

Whereas, the manifestations of discrimination in employment on grounds of race, creed, color, religion or national origin, have evidenced themselves at various times and with varied intensities; and

Whereas, prejudice in this form is exercised particularly against minority groups of which Japanese-Canadians are members; and

Whereas, unequal employment opportunity has had a vicious effect upon our communities leading to inter-racial tension and conflict, causing occupational segregation of minority groups, denying them the right of free vocational competition, preventing full development of their abilities, and causing a disproportionate distribution of some groups in certain branches of industry and commerce, thus adversely affecting the economic and moral health of the community; and

Whereas, fair employment will gain for us a more efficient utilization of skills, greater productive capacity, increased purchasing power and expanded markets, and thus contribute to the economic well-being of our country; and

Whereas, economic democracy will aid materially in the elimination of slums, ill-health, juvenile delinquency, and all the social ills which result from economic deprivation; an

Whereas, discriminatory employment practices negate those very democratic principles for which the last war was fought; threaten the rights and proper privileges of many Canadian citizens; and menace the institutions and foundation of a free democratic country;

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the National Conference of Japanese-Canadians go on record as urging the various levels of government to enact fair employment practices legislation aimed at outlawing discrimination in employment, and thus establishing the democratic principles of equality of opportunity, for which our fightin men and women of all races and creeds sacrificed their lives, and which we today must

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Resolution Re: Fair Employment Practices(cont.): achieve in their name and in the name of the living who desire peace and the fulfillment of the obligation of a democracy.

--National Conference of Japanese Canadian Organizations.

Resolution introduced by B.C. delegate:

Whereas, more than two years have elapsed since cessation of hostilities with Germany and Japan; and

Whereas the so called security and other restrictive war time measures as extended by Order-in-Council P.C. 270 and 251 which limit freedom of travel, employment and domicile to Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry in the province of British Columbia are no longer justifiable whether in fact or fiction; and

Whereas, these arbitrary restrictions based solely on race are repugnant to every conception of Canadian citizenship and to the principles of the United Nations' Charter which our nation has recently subscribed, we as Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry assembled at the National Conference of Japanese Canadian Organizations do hereby urge an immediate and effective removal of each and every restriction against Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry.

—National Conference of Japanese Canadian Organizations.

(Cont. from Page 22)Conclusion discussion report between Mr. Brewin and Delagates:

Mr. Brewin answered first by stating that Governments are incorporated groups. Many of the members are callous to such cases of unfairness to certain citizens and have very little sympathy and are not sensitive to public opinion as they should be. They are often taken up with Government matters which they consider of far greater importance than the question of Japanese Canadians' evacuation losses. However, if you wish to boycott the Commission, it must be supported 100%. There is a possibility that you have a chance to succeed.

A delegate questioned Mr. Brewin as follows: "Do you know of any other enemy aliens who suffered like losses?" Mr. Brewin replied that he was unaware of any other cases.

Ontario delegate (R. Obata)stated that the initial legal fee of $10,000 should not be considered unreasonable; and when broken down to a per claim basis might amount to $10 per claim which could be considered a fair charge. He pointed out that lawyers charge $5 for merely writing a letter on behalf of their clients. He questioned Mr. Brewin as to the feasibility of suggesting to the Commissioner that he consider claims in one area first in order to arrive at some kind of spot check decision as the present terms of reference are hopelessly narrow. Mr. Brewin stated that there was no value in presenting just a few claims. Mr. Brewin was also questioned as to the possibility of attacking the narrow terms of reference through some loophole which might be discovered under the Inquiries Act. He replied that there may be loopholes as there are powers which cannot be used beyond the terms of reference.

Mr. Brewin advised the delegates that when they return to their respective provinces that they advise their constituents on the following points and to find out the claimants' opinion on the matter of accepting the terms and the alternative course to boycott the terms: state to claimants that it would cost $10,000 in legal fees no matter which course of action is taken. Should claimants boycott terms, it would still cost $10,000 in the long run. That the safest and surest course of action would be to accept the present terms of reference.

Ontario delegate(R. Obata) urged that the National Organization take upon itself the leadership in this matter and "let the public relations groups be invited to support us in our fight -- that it is now about time that we handled our own problems and not place the initial responsinility upon intermediaries. We should advise the Issei that this is a responsibility wherein the National Organization is in a position to take responsibility which would benefit them."

The first National Conference adjourned at 5 PM, Tuesday, September 2, 1947.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 30th, 1947 - First Session (1 P.M.-6 P.M.)

Report by Chairman of Steering Committee on Conference rules as set up by the committee which met Saturday, August 30th, 1947 at 10 A.M.

Mr. Kinzie Tanaka appointed Chairman for Saturday session.

The B.C. delegates extended best wishes and success to the Conference on behalf of the Headquarter's Office of the B.C., J.C.C.A. at Greenwood, B.C.

Welcome address extended by E. Ide, Ontario delegate, on behalf of the Council for Ontario Japanese Canadian Organizations: "Mr. Chairman, Delegates, and Friends:- It is my pleasure on behalf of all Japanese Canadian Organizations in Ontario to welcome you at the opening of this first National Conference. I would like to take this opportunity in mentioning that we are to be honored by the presence of Mr. M. Masaoka, National Director of the J.A.C.L. We all know the great work Mr. Masaoka is doing for the J.A.C.L. and I am most certain his advice and counsel will be a great asset to this conference. Today delegates from many provinces have gathered here all with the same purpose in mind; to discuss those problems and issues which confront us today, to find the best possible solution, and to find what course of action should be taken. In order to obtain the rights of a full fledged Canadian citizen, we must pool our thoughts, our strength, and our whole-hearted efforts. At the same time we must not think of the welfare of the Japanese Canadians alone but give much thought to the problems of other racial minorities in Canada. I sincerely believe that the success of the outcome of this conference will not depend upon the delegates in attendance here today but will depend upon each and every Japanese Canadian to see that the aims are carried out efficiently and effectively. I feel that this our first National Conference will be of great success."

The Chairman asked each Provincial representative to give a brief outline of his Provincial Organization set-up.

B.C. - S. Honma reported as follows: "August, 1946, Slocan Central Committee transferred the work of their organization to the Greenwood, J.C.C.A. This was mainly to do with administering to the welfare of the remaining evacuees in B.C. on the Habeas Corpus proceedings still unsettled.

"September 1946: Greenwood J.C.C.A. met together with the Council members of the Greenwood Iinkai to discuss the administering of the transferred Slocan Committee. It was decided that Greenwood Iinkai council members be the working body of this new Organization. The name chosen was the B.C., J.C.C.A. with headquarters at Greenwood. A temporary Constitution was drawn up and steps were taken to organize other centres throughout the Province by sending out circulars. The results were encouraging. Contact was made with the Vancouver Consultative Council to work in co-operation with this body and through this Consultative Council, contact was made with the Civil Liberties Union.

"October 1946: Tashme Shinwakai contacted the B.C., J.C.C.A. to look after Habeas Corpus proceedings in their jurisdiction, however, financial matters were left entirely to former committee members of the Tashme Shinwakai.

"November 1946: Initial steps taken to encourage the taking out of citizenship papers. As the Privy Council upheld the Government's action on repatriation, preparations for Habeas Corpus started by confirming the list of applicants and their respective addresses as scattered throughout the Dominion. Donation of $100.00 was made to Vancouver Consultative Council to assist in meeting their expenses for pamphlets distributed which stressed the unfair policy of the Government concerning Canadians of Japanese origin. This council has done invaluable work to uphold the civil rights of all Canadian citizens. The members consisting of lawyers, doctors, professors and prominent business men formed to combat conditions created by war whereby government policies jeopordized democratic standards. Amongst minority groups Canadians of Japanese origin were under strong discrimination by Bill 15 of the government Order-in-Council. To fight this bill Vancouver Consultative Council members unselfishly worked on behalf of Canadians of Japanese origin.

"1947: Over-ruling of the Provincial Crown Timber Act during wartime by the Dominion Government made possible orientals to work on such property, however, as this ruling would expire on March 3, much concern felt for the future welfare of the Canadians of Japanese origin employed in the logging and lumbering industry. We sent circulars to other organizations advising them to seek the assistance of their local city council, Board of Trade or any others of influence who might send strong protest to the Provincial Government to revise the terms of the Crown Timber Act while the official ruling was still undetermined.

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B.C. - S. Honma's Report - Cont'd.

"February 5, 1947 - Five delegates sent to Vancouver to seek advice of influential individuals and organizations on how we should conduct our protest campaign. Officials expressed the opinion that for the time being others should carry the ball for the Canadians of Japanese origin and that too much antagonism and publicity should not be aroused at the present time. We have been following this advice for the time being. It was finally agreed that the lawyers would release the funds upon presentation of signed releases, the collection of which to be carried out by the J.C.C.A. Latest report from the law firm state they wish the executive of the B.C., J.C.C.A. to assume full responsibility for the distribution of Habeas Corpus refunds by signing papers relieving the law firm of their responsibility. B.C., J.C.C.A. first annual convention called by the Greenwood J.C.C.A. Invitations sent to different centres throughout Province. Outcome was the meeting of twelve organizations. Greenwood officially elected to carry on as the headquarters for B.C. for the ensuing year. Constitution drafted, franchise question discussed, restrictions on Canadians of Japanese origin in B.C. discussed. Report on Habeas Corpus refund procedure. Japan relief question discussed. The Convention felt at that time a National Organization a necessity as every Canadian of Japanese origin must unite to fight for minority rights. From this Convention we are happy to report there are fifteen large organizations, seventeen smaller bodies and eighteen small groups all affiliated to them. B.C. delegate stated that they represented their Province fully."

Alberta's Statement: The Alberta delegate stated that their Province is divided into two parts. They represent the Alberta Joint Committee comprised of the Southern Alberta Japanese Association and Southern Alberta Youth Council and represent a population of 4,000.

Manitoba's Statement: The Manitoba delegate stated that they represented 1,200 Japanese Canadians in Manitoba.

Quebec's Statement: The Quebec delegate stated that although they were not fully organized at present, a meeting was scheduled to be held in Montreal on Sept. 8, 1947 with the purpose of setting up a Quebec Provincial Organization. He stated that the present aims of the Montreal Organization were: (a) co-ordinate activities of different organizations in Montreal. (b) to co-operate with other groups with similar aims throughout Canada.

The J.C.C.D. Chairman, G. Tanaka stated that he had contacted the Regina Nisei Organization regarding Saskatchewan's representation to the Conference. He reported that the Regina Organization replied stating that they were not able to send a Saskatchewan delegate to the Conference for two reasons: (a) owing to the fact that the Regina Organization being a young and immature body was not in a position to send delegates, (b) that at the present time, Saskatchewan was not organized and therefore the Regina Organization was not in a position to represent that Province.
The president of the Regina Nisei Organization, B. Yoneda, stated in his letter that they would co-operate with the other Provincial Organizations in every way possible and that they hoped to set up a Saskatchewan Provincial Organization.

Chairman: "Does this Conference favour setting up a National Organization and if so, what suggestions are there regarding the outline of such a National Organization."

B.C: Favours National Organization.

Alberta: Favours National Organization.

The Alberta delegate stated that his Organization; (a) the Southern Alberta Youth Council feels that the proposed National Organization should be opened to all Canadians regardless of racial origin, who are interested in Canadian minority problems. (b) some members of Parliament object to hyphenated Canadians. By setting up a National Organization solely for those of Japanese ancestry, we tend to encourage and foster hyphenated Canadianism. We should avoid this error. (c) As Canadians, of the younger second generation, we have a moral obligation to fulfil. We should take the responsibility of leadership of the proposed National Organization as we are better qualified to do so and do not have the language handicap. (d) The valuable co-operation of the Issei in advisory capacity should be encouraged. Their experience would be of great benefit to the Nisei. (e) that the structure of the National Conference be as follows: (I) composed of delegates from specified areas according to population and existing organizations. (II) delegates to meet at an annual winter conference, preferably to be held in Winnipeg. (III) The National executive body be composed of members from Eastern Canada. (IV) Such a National executive body should work and co-operate with the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians.

Manitoba's Statement: There is a need for a permanent National Organization which should continue to carry out vital educational activities even after all full civil rights have been realized.

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The Conference went on record as follows: Provincial Organizations favour formation of a National Organization. Motion moved by B.C. delegate and seconded by Manitoba delegate. Carried.

The delegates had no further suggestions to make in regards to a statement of purpose of the National Organization and accepted the expression indicated in the 'brief outline of the National Organization'.

The delegates began discussion on the general set-up for the National Organization and used the brief outline of the proposed National Organization as submitted by the Council for Ontario Japanese Canadian Organizations as the basis for discussion.

Ontario delegate outlined three types of National Organization set-up which could be considered: (I) Chapter system: where Organizations throughout Canada become members of the National Organization. (II) Affiliation system: Under this system the Provincial Organizations retain their own identity and affiliate to the National Organization. (III) Provincial Chapter system: Under this system the various Provincial Organizations become chapters of the National Organization but the various local organizations within the respective Provinces retain their own identity.

On question raised by B.C. as to whether local organizations under the Provincial Chapter system would have to take the J.C.C.A. name, the conference stated that it was not necessary.

Manitoba delegate took preference to the affiliation system giving for his reasons the unhappy experience of the Isseis with the Nipponjinkai.

Quebec delegate stated that the Provincial Chapter system will work 100% in his Province.

Ontario delegate felt that a constitution common for all member Provincial Organizations was necessary.

The Conference adopted the Provincial Chapter System (See Page 5 Motion #I.)

After extensive discussion by the Conference delegates during Saturday, August 30th and Sunday, August 31st sessions given over to matters pertaining to the setting up of the National Organization a rough draft of Constitution for the National Organization was made as outlined in this report on Page 3.

Re: National Organization Budget

Mike Masaoka: "It is doubtful whether it would be possible to get a good man for the salary of $1,500. per annum. In order to have a good income you must have a capable man to bring it in and only a good secretary would be able to do this."

Discussion on National budget on basis suggested by Ontario Organization outline of $2,500. per year.

Ontario: The National budget can be raised to $5,000 - $10,000.

Mike Masaoka: "Part of your budget is taxable. You should try to draw a constitution carefully in order to avoid legal pitfalls. There may be a federal tax on your Organization's gross income. In the beginning we didn't consider all the angles and ran into tax difficulties. In the States we raised $50,000. for the J.A.C.L. from which $22,000. was deducted for taxes. I believe in Canada the situation is even worse than in the United States in matters of taxation. The main questions are: (I) Appropriate budget that can be recommended. (II) How should the budget be raised. (III) What amount is it possible to raise.

It was the decision of the Conference that the National Executive Secretary be paid on a full time basis instead of part time as stated in suggested outline.

Discussion followed on ways and means of raising funds for the National Organization.

Chairman: "It is rather difficult to assess the amounts to be raised as some districts are wealthier than others. It is a matter of adjustment. It is best to allot to each area the amount which they feel they can raise.

Mike Masaoka: "During the J.A.C.L. campaign, $90,000. was raised in California alone but even so sometimes funds are inadequate. In the States 80% of J.A.C.L. budget was raised by the Issei who take more interest in these matters.

Discussion took place regarding ways and means of assessing the various Provinces, to raise the required National Fund. Fund assessment on a per capita basis was also discussed.

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Discussion followed on ways and means of raising funds for the N. O. - Cont'd.

Ontario delegate (R. Obata) reported to the Conference the work of the Toronto Committee on the Bill of Rights and also on the matter of Fair Employment Practices Legislation. Resolution on the above two matters were discussed fully by the delegates and was unanimously agreed that they be submitted to the Toronto Committees, (Mr. E. Himel, Committee for Bill of Rights at Toronto, and Mr. B. Kayfetz, Corresponding Secretary of the Fair Employment Practices Association at Toronto.)

Meeting adjourned 6 P.M. Saturday, August 31st, 1947.

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Sunday, August 31st, 1947 - Second Session (1 P.M. - 6 P.M.)

Conference resumed discussion on the National Organization set up.

The rough draft on the Constitution for the National Organization which was drawn up during special committee session on Saturday evening, August 30th, was discussed in detail.

Sections 1, 2, 9, 14 and 15 were adopted. (See draft of Constitution for National Organization on Page 3.)

Motion Re: Interim Committee - Constitution adopted by the Conference. (See Page 5, Motion

Discussion on National Council

Mike Masaoka: "In the J.A.C.L. the National Council is made up of all the district council and is responsible for the final decision on any matters taken up. The National Council must be powerful and must have control over the policies of the local chapters." As an example of this necessity he cited the San Fransisco Veteran's housing problem which the National Council was able to take over and iron out.
"The program of action that satisfies your conscience needs to be worked out and then an appeal should be made to the people who are interested in that action. The smaller organized interested group is able to do it more effectively than a larger group of uninterested members. In its function, the National Council lays out a broad outline of policy. The National Secretary then works out the policy, aided by a group of highly selected people."

Ontario delegate, (G. Tanaka) "In your opinion, Mike, would it be feasible to gain the sympathy and assistance of other organizations not incorporated in the National Organizatio in order to raise funds that are required for work on the National Scale."

Mike Masaoka: "You should have the Issei work on this since they still hold the purse strings. This method will eventually get the Nisei's interested. The real success of any program lies in the success of local leadership. In the States, in some localities, the J.A.C.L. has the control of almost all the local recreational facilities. Our aims are: (I) to protect the rights and interests of the Japanese people in America. (II) to do everything possible to further their welfare as Americans. (III) to work with other groups in so far as possible in order to build up a greater mutual protective barrier."

B.C. delegate: (H. Onotera) stated that they had not in their Province a complete chapter system. He felt there would be no difficulty in bringing about this end. He stated that there were fifty groups and Organizations affiliated to the B.C., J.C.C.A.

The Alberta delegate, (K. Shigehiro) stated that in his opinion it would be difficult to convert all local Organizations within their respective Provinces to chapters of the National Organization.

The Manitoba delegate, (H. Hirose) stated that in Manitoba it would not be difficult to bring about the Chapter system.

Quebec delegate: (H.R. Okuda) stated that in Montreal all the Japanese Organizations belong to the Provincial Organization. The bulk of Quebec's Japanese Canadian population is centred in Montreal and they thought there would be no difficulty encountered in installing a Chapter system there.

Ontario delegate; (R.Obata) suggested that the Provincial Chapter System be adopted in order to expedite matters. Stating further that each Provincial Organization take upon itself the responsibility of organizing a true chapter system in their Province and that until such time that a true chapter system is adopted throughout the Province a temporary compromise be affected which would be a system half way between affiliation and chapter.

Mike Masaoka - suggested to the Conference that the use of the 'kais' be discouraged and the use of English names for Issei Organizations be encouraged.

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J.C.C.D. Report on Economic Losses Survey and Claims Commission - by G. Tanaka

In November 1946 the J.C.C.D. undertook to carry out a strictly local Toronto Economic Losses Survey with the object of obtaining definite information in terms of actual cases of evacuee losses suffered as convincing proof which could be presented to the Co-operative Committee as well as to the general public. It was hoped that the results of the Toronto Losses Survey would be sufficiently impressive to leave no doubt as to the truth of the evacuee losses and act as springboard to launch the National Survey. Out of the 650 Survey mailed covering 1,800 people, 200 forms on losses were received. From these cases it was found that the total estimated value at the time of evacuation amounted to $1,400,395.66 while the amount received from the Custodian or in some cases owner's forced sale totalled $351,334.86 which indicated a loss of $1,031,732.89.

The Nation wide Economic Losses Survey began in January, 1947 and officially ended April 30, 1947. Estimated cost of conducting the survey as announced by the J.C.C.D. was $2,000.00. The forms received from each Province were as follows: B.C.-619, Alberta-8; Sask.-15; Manitoba-100; Ontario-563, and Quebec-71. Total 1,376 forms. (It is estimated that possibly 2,000 claims may be filed.

The donations from each Province were as follows: B.C. -$1,214.00, Alberta-$64.00, Saskatchewan-$27.00, Manitoba-$272.50, Ontario-$617.00 and Quebec-$149.15. Total $2,343.65.

Owing to the initial Toronto survey being conducted as a purely local J.C.C.D. project the immediate costs were borne by the J.C.C D, money being raised on a membership basis which indicates to some extent the smaller Ontario donations. This Toronto Survey was conducted on a door to door canvassing basis. Much depended upon the results of this local survey as no Nation wide survey could be undertaken until definite proof of losses could be shown.

The total cost of conducting the Nation wide survey to date is approximately $2,000.00. This covers the following expenses: honorarium, printing costs, rent, office equipment, supplies, etc. The complete detailed financial report cannot be made at this time as several accounts are still outstanding. It is expected that the J.C.C.D. Treasurer will soon be in a position to give a complete detailed financial statement. This statement will be mailed to the various delegates in the near future.

The Nation wide Economic Losses Survey can be looked upon as a form of brief which has convincingly shown that the Japanese Canadian evacuees were justified in their claim that Economic Losses were suffered as a direct result of the Government's evacuation orders.

Also as a direct result of this survey with the great help of the Co-operative Committee, the J.C.C.D. and many Japanese Canadian Organizations across Canada much publicity was gained through newspapers in Canada. . The Co-operative Committee was able to bring to the attention of the Government these losses and present the facts convincingly to the Public Accounts Committee.

On July 18, 1947 the Government announced the appointment of a Commissioner under Terms of Reference, P.C. 1810 as follows: That the Hon. Mr. Justice Henry Irvine Bird be appointed a Commissioner pursuant to the Inquiries Act, Chapter 99 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, to inquire into the following claims of persons of the Japanese race who are resident in Canada at the date of this Order namely; (a) that by reason of the failure of the Custodian to exercise reasonble care in the disposition of the real and personal property vested in the Custodian pursuant to the above mentioned Ordors, the amount received by the Custodian for such property was less than the market value thereof at the time of such disposition and (b) that by reason of the failure of the Custodian to exercise reasonable care in the management of personal property, such property was lost, destroyed or stolen but no claim shall be considered in respect of property lost, destroyed or stolen while under the custody, control or management of any person, other than the Custodian, appointed by the owner of the property.
That the Commissioner shall examine into each claim and make a report to the Governor-in-Council setting forth the claims, if any, which in the opinion of the Commissioner are well founded and the amount which, in his opinion, would fairly and reasonably compensate the claimant for failure of the Custodian to exercise reasonable care.

That the Commissioner shall give public notice in such manner as he deems advisable of the time for the filing of claims and for the hearing of evidence and that all claims shall be in writing verified by statutory declaration and filed in office of Custodian at Vancouver,B.

The terms of Order-in-Council, PC 1810 impose an impossible burden on claimants. Before the Commissioner can recommend a cent of compensation, he must be satisfied that the Custodian has failed to use reasonable care in disposing of the properties. Hundreds of claims cannot be considered within these narrow terms of reference.

It has always been the contention of the Japanese Canadian evacuees that economic losses were suffered as a direct results of the Government's order of evacuation and not through any lack of care by the Custodian in the sale of properties.

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The J.C.C.D. compiled the following statistical information based on 549 claims for losses picked at random from the total forms received across Canada as follows: Property sold by the Custodian 74.3%. Property sold by owner's forced sale 18.4%. Property still in the Custodian's hands or property sold by special committee 7.3%.

The Co-operative Committee has written the Prime Minister reminding him of his statement made on January 24, 1947. "That the Government would give consideration to cases where it could be shown that losses were made by the Custodian at less than fair market value." The present terms of reference give no justification for the Prime Minister's statement.

On August 26, 1947, Mr. Brewin, legal counsel to the Co-operative Committee met with Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State. Mrs. Hugh MacMillan, Secretary of the Co-operative Committee and Geo. Tanaka, chairman of the J.C.C.D. met Mr. Brewin in Ottawa for consultation before his interview with the Minister of Justice and Secretary of State. In presenting the views of the Co-operative Committee and Japanese Canadians on the narrow terms of reference before the two Government members he urged that the Order-in-Council, PC 1810 be amended so as to give fair and just consideration to all evacuee claims for losses reasonably and naturally arising out of the Government's evacuation orders and compensation should be given on the same lines as in the Bill before Congress as presented by the United States Government. Mr. Brewin stressed to the Justice Minister, Mr. Ilsley and Mr. Gibson, Secretary of State that the terms of reference were considerably narrower than indicated in the statement made by the Prime Minister on January 24, 1947, and the recommendation made to the Government by the Public Accounts Committee.

The Ministers discussed matters thoroughly with Mr. Brewin and intimated that the matter would be referred to the Cabinet and an early decision would be announced as to whether or not the order would be amended.

Two important questions must be discussed at this Conference as the Claims Commissioner is now scheduled to sit on or about October 1st, 1947. (a) Should the National Council (at this National Conference) follow the advice of the Co-operative Committee's legal committee & recommend that the present terms of reference be accepted with the object that from this inquiry a basis may be laid for further representation to the Government after the Commissioner submits his report? or (b) recommend to the claimants that the terms should be refused (boycott)? Should this course of action be taken there is the danger that the Government may take the attitude that the claimants refuse to co-operate and therefore have forfeited any right to further consideration from them.

(c) The Co-operative Committee's Legal Committee is now planning to offer its services to the claimants through the various co-operating committees in each Province. It is the Co-operative Committee's intention that in offering legal service to the claimants in this matter to appreciably lower the cost of such legal service to the individual claimants. Mr. Brewin estimates the initial cost for legal services for presenting all claims will total to some $10,000.00 A breakdown of cost for legal work in each Province is as follows: B.C. $5,000; Alberta $1,000; Manitoba $1,000; Ontario and Quebec $3,000.

Of the 1,376 forms filed to date approximately 1,000 may be considered within the terms of reference. In order to raise the $10,000.00 to cover the initial legal costs for preparing and presenting claims it is thought that perhaps a basic charge of $10.00 per claim may be levied or that the charge be based on a percentage of each $100.00 claimed. In cases, where claimants are destitute and cannot pay the initial fee the Co-operative Committee's Legal Committee will present their claims to the commissioner without charge. Upon termination of all legal work on presentation of claims to the commissioner, it is found that the total cost of legal services provided by the Co-operative Committee exceedes the initial charge of $10,000.00, the balance will be paid out of the total funds granted by the Government for restitution of losses, on a percentage charge basis."

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Monday, September 1st, 1947 - Third Session (10A.M. - 12 Noon.)

(Session began at 10:00A.M. following a special all night caucus which began 12 midnight and concluded 8:30A.M. Monday, September 1, 1947.)

Further discusstion took place on the set-up of the National Organization.

It was felt by the B.C. delegate that the Executive Secretary's position quite important, and stated preference for further discussion on the matter. The question was asked as to whether the Executive Secretary be appointed now or that the National Executive Committee be given the responsibility to look into the matter. They felt since the bulk of the work must be done in Eastern Canada that the Executive Committee membership should be chosen from Ontario.

Manitoba delegate concurred with this suggestion.

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Ontario delegate felt that geographical location should not prevent any suitable person accepting from the National Executive Secretaryship and that such a person should be prepared to move to Toronto.

The Quebec delegate felt that the National Executive Secretary position should be filled preferably by someone in the Eastern Provinces. However, he stated his agreement with Ontario that the secretary should be someone capable and if necessary someone who is willing to come to Toronto where the National Executive Committee is located.

B.C. delegate stated that the National Executive Secretary should be someone capable who has a very wide knowledge. It may mean asking someone to quit his present job in order to accept this position. B.C. (H.Onotera) nominated G. Tanaka for the position as National Executive Secretary as he felt he is well versed in the knowledge of this work.

George Tanaka stated that he would like to help the National Organization and that it was indeed an honour to be considered a nominee, however, for the last ten months he had worked more or less voluntarily on matters such as the losses survey, etc., because he was free last November owing to recent discharge from the Armed Forces and because he felt there was a great need for someone to carry out the J.C.C.D. survey. He stated that his plans for taking a special University course in the United States through the Department of Veteran's Affairs had already been arranged and that he had a short time to complete his application to the D.V.A. or lose the opportunity for Veteran's educational grant. He felt that there are Nisei more capable than he to do this work. He stated that he would know by the end of this month about his plans for school.

The Conference nominated George Tanaka and Tom Shoyama for the position of National Executive Secretary. (See Page 7, Resolution #4.)

The Conference after full discussion elected National Council Officers. (See Page 3.)

Further discussion took place on the National Organization set-up. Discussions on Section 8, 9, of 'Constitution Outline'.

The following Issei and Nisei members were suggested to act on the National Executive Committee situated in Toronto: Rev. Shimizu, Mr. Kameoka, Mr. Sasaki, Miss N. Fujita, Mr. R. Shinobu, Rev. T. Tsuji, Mr. K. Tanaka, Mrs. M. Kitagawa, Mr. J. Ide, Mr. J. Oki, Mr. H. Ide, Rev. J.M. Finlay, Mr. A. Watson. (partial list as presented at Conference.)

Mike Masaoka: Question as to their availability.

B.C. suggested that they be approached as to whether they will act on the National Executive Committee.

Manitoba: During all night, Sunday to Monday session it was suggested a lawyer be included in the Caucasian group.

B.C. suggested that someone from floor can nominate a lawyer.

Mr. Pete Yamada suggested Mr. J. Cartwright.

Mike Masaoka: Suggests that National Officers from Toronto area comprise themselves into committee and approach the various people nominated for the National Executive Committee. He pointed out that delegates from out of town are not aquainted with these people.

It was suggested that a special four man committee be appointed to approach the various people nominated for the National Executive Committee to ask whether they would consent to act on the committee. The following were appointed to the special committee: R. Obata, K. Tanaka, H. Ide and K. Shimizu.

Further discussion on the National Organization set-up took place. Sections 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the rough draft of Constitution was discussed.

Ontario delegate, (E. Ide) agrees Mike MasaoKa's suggestion of $10,000.00 budget be accepted as it would then cover the financing of other special projects which have been discussed at this Conference.

Mike Masaoka: stated that in the States they receive $1,000. donations right and left.

Alberta delegate felt that the present $7,500. budget should be accepted and funds for other projects raised when the need arises.

The Chairman pointed out that it was not wise to continually ask for money and that it should be planned to raise the full amount at one time.

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It was suggested that B.C.'s quota of National Fund Budget be $3,300.00; Alberta $2,200.00; Manitoba $550.00; Ontario $3,850.00; Quebec $550.00; Saskatchewan $550.00.

B .C. delegate felt that this assessment too heavy.

Manitoba delegate felt that assessment too heavy.

Quebec delegate stated that Organizations should try and sell the 100% chapter system plan of the National Organization and not hesitate over the $10,000.00 National Budget figure.

B.C. delegate requested that consideration be given to the economic standing of each Province and their ability to raise funds.

Manitoba delegate suggested that the $7,500.00 Budget be accepted and that any funds necessary for carrying out special projects be drawn from any National Organization reserve fund which would be built up from special donations.

The Manitoba delegate, (T. Umezuki) suggested that special donations should be regarded as kind of insurance to be used in case of special need.

B.C. delegate, (T. Kobayashi) stated that the most important thing the National Organization should do at the present time is in the line of political action as their is much work to be carried out on certain issues. And even though the documentation of the evacuation is a very important matter it should be of secondary consideration in respect to much needed work on political matters. However, since such documentation is indeed important, "we should never cease to explore the possibility of raising money for this project."

The Conference discussed following matters pertaining to the allocation of raising the National budget fund. (See Page 5, Motion #4.)

Discussion took place as to date and place of the next conference. (See Page 3.)

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Monday, September 1st, 1947 - Fourth Session (2P.M. - 5 P.M.)

Restrictions: Report given by B.C.delegate on certain restrictions still enforced in B.C. (I) travel restrictions (II) commercial fishing. B.C. delegate,(S. Honma) read the following letter received from the R.C.M.P, of Grand Forks, B .C. regarding travel restrictions against Japanese Canadians. "All persons wishing to travel must apply to 340 Homer Street, Vancouver, B.C. for permit for transfer to Eastern Canada or permit to visit Eastern Area." (III) Restriction on franchise: Japanese Canadians in B. C. are denied the right to vote. Letter of protest has been written to the Prime Minister but no answer has been received as yet. Much assistance has been offered by the Consultative Committee, Civil Liberties Groups and the local Board of Trade of Greenwood, B.C.

Report by B.C. delegate, (T. Kobayashi): He stated that the Canadian Legion was severely criticised for not protesting against the Japanese in his district. "Wherever there is a Japanese question we try to get a motion from this Legion forwarded to the District Council in order that they may eventually reach Ottawa. They can outvote Kelowna and Vernon!

The people of Kelowna, B. C. were very anti Japanese but now the situation is gradually improving. The Okanagan district Trade and Labour Council, representing 21,000 members joined in political action against anti discrimination. We find that the Japanese up there have all kinds of opportunities to fight for their rights and there are many others fighting for the same cause. Although the Okanagan valley, with 1,000 people was not affected by the evacuation, they, too, have problems of all kinds and have joined the National organization to help the cause of the J.C.C.A.

We are instructing the legion members to fight for the same cause as we feel we should do something. Franchise in B. C. is the major problem as it restricts us in so many other things. It is very difficult to get started where the anti Japanese feeling is so strong, but we are gradually making headway.

Mike Masaoka brought up the Moose Jaw question as he was asked about this situation by Time Magazine.

Chairman: Suggest we leave this till later as time is so short.

The matter of fishing restriction in B. C. was brought up by a delegate. It was stated that Buck Suzuki is handling this matter and intends to make a real test case of it.

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Alberta: Franchise is restricted not only in the province of B. C. It is also the case in Alberta where the evacuees are refused business licences in towns because they are not recognized as Alberta citizens. The reason given is that owing to the fact that the evacuees are considered only temporary citizens, they are not granted the franchise. This applies only to evacuees. The residents of Alberta have the same rights as any other Alberta citizen. The evacuees must also pay 50¢ a day more than other groups for hospital treatment and have no vote as well. The limitation of the Japanese vote is still in effect. Agreement has not been reached. We have wired Ottawa and Edmonton on several occasion in an attempt to gain the franchise for evacuee Japanese Canadians, but have failed to make any headway on the matter.

Chairman: Perhaps assistance of the National Council would help.

Alberta: It may help us to have the National Organization make representation to Ottawa on our behalf.

In B. C. under Bill of Rights there are no restrictions on permits, licenses. In B. C. discrimination exists only in matters of franchise. In B. C. the amount of old age ponsion granted the Japanese is less than the prevailing standard. The Japanese only get $ 20.00, whereas the Occidentals get $ 35.00 per month. The full provincial old age bonus is not given to the Japanese and the Dominion grant is only $ 18.75. The figures for the $ 35 pension are: Dominion grant of $ 18.75 and a provincial grant of $ 16.25. We have asked the assistance of Mr. MacKinnon who is trying his best to help us in this matter. We would like to ask assistance of the National organization.

Reports made by Miss Norah Fujita on National Educational Program - Race Relation:

Objection of National Organization includes expression of our aspirations to work in co-operation with other minority groups in Canada and groups outside this country who are working to secure fundamental human right for all people.

This indicates that the race and minority questions are recognized as a universal issue, and that the Japanese Canadian problem in itself, or even the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian issue together are not in themselves a peculiar sociological phenomena, but that they are a part of the whole unhealthy pattern of "racism" as practised all over the world -the subjucation and persecution of people because of their race, creed or colour. Recognition of the fact that the struggles of other minority and racial groups are our struggles.

It is not an impractical way of looking at it-we are not spreading thin our efforts — we cannot afford to think in any narrower terms than on a world scale because we now live in "one world".

The following report is an illustration of the kind of thing in which we can participate on this basis. Such invitations may come again to the National Organization as such, or to local or provincial chapters, but the important thing is to get in there and participate.

The Inter Racial Workshop:

Workshop was held in Washington, D. C. during the month of July. There were 25 participants, with Bayard Rustin as director. All the participants lived in a co-operative in a Negro community (Jews, Negroes, Caucasians and Japanese).

Purpose: To study the "colour line" as it exists in the Capital of America and to take direct action to combat it. The negro problem is a "tough" problem. We were a group who believed in the non violent direct action technique, that is, we were dedicated to non-violence in attitude in speech and in deed.

I arrived in time to take part in the main action project: The Y.M.C.A. Coffee Shop where discrimination against negroes being served was known.

(a) Negotiations broke down.
(b) Need to point up its issue dramatically to get officials to face the issue.
(c) Strategy worked out for a "sit down".
(d) Informing the police.

First day, 11 - 2 P.M.: Indian student mistaken for a negro was refused service in the Y.M.C.A. Cafeteria. We proceeded to combat discrimination through non-violent techniques.

Second day 11 - 7 P.M.: Tied up business, distributed leaflets outside; photographer ousted by Chinese Judo instructor; ammonia fumes in the air conditioning system. Chief of Police went up to talk with the leader of this group.

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Third day: Officials of the Y.M.C.A. met with us to discuss the matter. . Newspapers called; lawyer sent in to talk on our behalf. "Y" officials agreed to recommend policy of non-discrimination be adopted by "Y" at the next "Y" Board Meeting.

Methodist Building: However a change of policy affected and they were not allowing coloured people.

Leaflet/ring at Greyhound Bus Terminal: "You don't have to Ride Jim Crow".

Heard speakers and had discussions.

Assigned to churches to speak 5 minutes on project.

Called and held a public meeting.

Did contact work. Held an open house, strategy meetings daily. Composed 7 leaflets and mimeographed 30,000 copies.

Evaluation:

1. Wouldn't have missed it for the world. Clarified personal convictions and learned some ways of combatting discrimination.

2. Such experiences probe the depth of our convictions -- whether they are purely selfish, or whether a belief in the fundamental human rights for all people.

3. Discrimination needs to be challenged on the level of day-to-day living.

4. Some people need to be forced to the realization of the seriousness of the discrimination they practise so irresponsibly.

5. More of us need to be willing to stick our neck out and get hurt. Even when using non violent techniques and all the practical psychology one knows. Chances of getting hurt are pretty good.

6. Non-violent direct action technique assures victory even if it is only a moral victory at times.

7. Such participation calls for individuals of conviction, courage and character -- understanding of the fundamental human need of all people regardless of whether you are pigmented or non-pigmented.

8. What is the average Japanese Canadian's conception of their place and responsibility in and for humanity as a whole.

Report made by Mrs. M. Kitagawa Re Adult Education

Mrs. Kitagawa reported that a book on the evacuation is contemplated. The author of the book would be a nisei writer. The book will contain probably 100 pages with about ten stories connected up with all the informative links. This book will be historical as well as educational and is to be made up of real experiences of niseis as well as isseis, with very little of the writer's interpretation.

Question asked by Chairman: Is the National Organization going to take over the book, or is the J.C.C.D. taking it over?

Reply -- That the National Organization should take it over (see Page 6, Motion #13).

Mrs. MacMillan stated that the Co-operative Committee is willing to contribute an amount, up to $ 500.00, for this project.

The Chairman received a cheque donated from the former Duncan Shinwakai, sum of $336.90. First special donation received.

Motion was made by George Tanaka (Ontario delegate) that they meet again tomorror morning at 8:30 a.m. in order to complete conference business. Seconded by B. C. delegate. Motion unanimously carried.

On behalf of the J.C.C.D., George Tanaka (Ontario delegate) thanked the delegates for

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their presence. A B. C. delegate gave words of thanks and appreciation.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman at 5:45 p.m.

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Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1947 - Fifth Session (9:00 a.m.--5:00 p.m.)

Chairman: Asked Mike Masaoka if he would like to say a few words.

Mike Masaoka: "I am grateful for the opportunity to come to this National Conference and I hope I have been helpful in some way. I know the National Organization will have a rough time getting started, however, I know that your ability and wonderful spirit of co-operation and goodwill shown to me during this Conference is an indication that you will not fail.

Try to plan the Organization's policy, not on a basis of individual personalities, or for the organization as such, but for the benefit it will give in the long run to the Japanese Canadians.

If at any time individuals or organizations need my services, write to me at 501 Bee St., N.E., Washington, D. C. I hope that when the next Conference is held, I will be able to bring more than one representative from America. I extend to you an invitation to attend our next Conference to be held in Salt Lake City in August, 1948."

Resolution introduced by the B. C. delegate adopted (see Page 8, Resolution #7).

Alberta's resolution to be drawn up and presented to National Organization at a later date.

Moose Jaw Situation:

Alberta: Can anyone give a few facts re this situation?

Manitoba delegate (T. Umezuki): These people refuse to move anywhere except by International Law.

Mike Masaoka: No such thing as International Law. The system crumbled during the war. United Nations is setting up one.

Manitoba delegate (T. Umezuki): Stated that R.C.M.P. took three of these men by force and escorted them under heavy escort to New Denver.

Mike: Further investigations should be made as to civil rights under Canadian system.

B. C. delegate (T. Kobayashi): No real authoritative information on the matter at hand. Suggest committee make an investigation as to wether rights of Canadian citizens have been violated. Approved by all delegates.

Alberta asked to look into this matter on the way home.

Mike Masaoka: Thinks something important involved. According to the Editor of "Times Magazine", there is public opinion involved. If government officials told B. C. delegates confidentially to drop this matter, it sounds suspicious. This may be the key to evacuation. Someone or several from this group should go to Moose Jaw to investigate this matter.

George Tanaka (Ontario delegate): Is it possible for B. C. delegates to stop over for one day?

Motion by Ontario Delegate (R. Obata) that the Alberta delegate investigate the Moose Jaw matter en route to Alberta. Seconded by Quebec delegate (R. Okuda). Motion carried.

Motion re National J.C.C.A. representative to see Jutice Bird (see Page 6, Motion 5).

Mrs. MacMillan, Secretary for the Co-operative Committee: Mr. McMaster has had two interviews with Chief Justice Bird. Mr. Bird has stated that he is coming to Ottawa to give his instructions. I think it will be towards the middle of September. We may meet him here in Toronto. Mr. Bird himself thinks the terms of reference very narrow. We may accept the terms even if we do not get them broadened. In this way it may bring forth

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a full investigation.

Ontario delegate (R. Obata): It is important that we weigh carefully matters pertaining to the Claims Commission. During the all night session, the delegates discussed this fully. The delegates feel that it is safer to accept the terms of reference. The government having set up the Commission, if faced by refusal of Claimants to file claims, may take the attitude that the people refuse to co-operate and, therefore, forfeit any further right to sympathetic consideration.

Terms of Reference

Discussion

Mrs. MacMillan: Announcement on ammended terms of reference may be delayed. We have been notified that the Commission will commence hearings on October 1st. We are not aware of changes regarding terms.

Mike Masaoka: If Canada accepts the narrow terms of reference, it will affect the States.

Mrs. MacMillan: Whatever steps you take, we will give good support (to Japanese Can.).

Manitoba: Is the commencement date of the investigation slated for October 1st?

Mrs. MacMillan: Announcements will go out to the Japanese Canadians around that date. In the meantime, we were having an interview with Mr. Ilsley. He was upset. Plans may be changed and terms of reference may be widened by October 1st.

Manitoba: Is there a possibility of getting a postponement?

Mrs. MacMillan: We would have to act quickly, and if the terms are widened, it would be delayed. Forms printed now are under the present terms of reference.

The Alberta delegate brought up the question of stranded Japanese Canadians in Japan.

Conference discussed matter pertaining to naturalization (see Page 6, Motion #7).

Conference discussed setting up a National Organization publication (see Page 6, Motion #8).

Conference discussed suggestion that each province send information to National headquarters every month. Send items of particular interest to National Organization. Information and editing to go through Provincial Organization and then sent to National Organization. Allotment and space, scheduled date/should be considered.
publication

Discussion: J.C.C.D.'s Nisei Affairs could be taken over by National Organization, but heading may not be appropriate. J.C.C.D. hopes to become a chapter of Nisei organization and would be able to donate Nisei Affairs publication to National Organization.

Conference discussed ways and means by which National Headquarter could keep in constant touch with the various Provincial Chapters. Memo letter system was discussed.

Rehabilitation: Mr. Taguchi (Alberta delegate) stated that support should be given to families in difficulty. If they were given rehabilitation grants, they could become self-supporting. Assignment to Alberta: collect full facts on this matter.

Old Age Pension - Japanese Canadians not getting full benefit. Canadians are receiving $40.00 and Japanese $30.00. In B. C. the Dominion grant is $18.75. The Province contributes balance in form of bonus ($26.75). Japanese are only getting $11.25 Provincial bonus.

Ontario: Case known where Japanese Canadians receiving only $ 20.00. They are still considered B. C. residents.

Conference extended its appreciation to Mrs. MacMillan for her fine work on behalf of Japanese Canadians. Delegate stated Mrs. MacMillan is leaving for Formosa, suggestion for gift was brought up. National Executive Committee delegated to present gift to Mrs. MacMillan.

Until the appointment of National Executive Secretary is definite, George Tanaka will take over the office on a temporary basis (pro-tem).

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Report of Discussion Between Mr. Andrew Brewin (Legal Counsel to Co-Operative Committee and Delegates:

Mr. Brewin, legal counsel to the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, attended the Conference on Tuesday, September 2nd at 1:30 P.M. in order to explain to the delegates any questions regarding present terms of reference and the Claims Commission.

Mr. Brewin stated that in regard to the present situation under the present unsatisfactory terms of reference, should they not be altered and widened and the claimants were to make their presentation for losses to the Commissioner, it would be extremely difficult to gain restitution for losses as it must be proved that property losses were incurred through the lack of exercise of reasonable care by the Custodian in handling the property.

The true situation concerning evacuee losses is that such losses were not a result of exercise of lack of care by the Custodian, but that losses arose out of the Government's policies of evacuation.

Claims for property sold by the Custodian to the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Soldiers Settlement Project in the Fraser Valley, may have a fair chance of gaining award for losses as it appears to be a fairly clear case of lack of reasonable care by the Custodian. Mr. Brewin stated further, that claimants who suffered losses as a result of vandalism or owner's forced sale of property would be entirely eliminated for consideration by the Commissioner for claims under the present terms of reference.

Should the claimants decide to present their claims under the present terms of reference, although the prospects are not bright, there are advantages to be gained which would be used for further representation to the Government and in Parliament. Mr. Brewin went on to say that -- You may quite unexpectedly turn up something in the way of convincing proof of losses which will enable you to take a strong case to the Government. Again, under the present terms of reference, if you decide to boycott the Claims Commission and refuse to present claims to the Commissioner, there is a possibility that you may lose whatever sympathetic attitude there exists within the Government's ranks and the Government may take an attitude, that as far as they are concerned, the case is closed. It is very difficult for me (Brewin) to advise you as to what course of action you should take, but under the existing circumstances, I would not think it a wise action to refuse this opportunity for presenting claims for losses to the Commissioner.

The Chairman, Mr. Kinzie Tanaka, pointed out to Mr. Brewin the situation which exists in the south concerning the United States Legislature Committee. He stated to Mr. Brewin that Congress gave one Bill dealing with American Evacuee Losses which contained very narrow terms and which was rejected by the Japanese Americans as being entirely inadequate. A second Bill was also turned down by the Japanese Americans. A third Bill was then presented which was quite reasonable to the Japanese Americans. Although it was not without considerable struggle and effort made by the Japanese American Citizens League to gain this point, the effort turned out to be worthwhile. Mr. K. Tanaka cited this as an American situation told to the delegates by Mr. Mike Masaoka and that Mr. Masaoka advised that a parallel course of action be taken in Canada as any decision made by the Japanese Canadians under the present circumstances might have an effect on the American situation.

Mr. Brewin replied that such a course of action might result in a good case to the benefit of the claimants, but pointed out that it would be a very difficult course of action to take. He stated that possibly in the United States a stronger body of organization exists.

Mr. Brewin stressed that should a course of action be taken by the claimants tantamount to complete boycott of the Commission, the following elements must be considered -- You are taking, definitely, a chance and such a stand, in order to be successful, requires 100% unity amongst the claimants or at least 90% unity which is a rather doubtful possibility, considering the situation in particular, where people whose property in the Fraser Valley was sold to the Depqrtment of Veterans' Affairs. If you feel you have a complete united front across Canada of all the claimants against the present terms of reference, you may be successful in the boycott of the Commission. Such a stand requires complete assurance of support from all the claimants across Canada.

The Co-operative Committee has already hinted that they may not take any steps under the present terms of reference. This attitude or hint was given in order to influence the Government for a widening of the terms. It has been pointed out to the Government that should an unsatisfactory settlement be made regarding the losses, the Government may face

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criticism from the Canadian people for years to come.

A question was put to Mr. Brewin by one of the delegates -- If the terms of reference should remain the same, what do you think the chances for restitution would be?

Mr. Brewin answered that restitution would be totally inadequate for the majority of claims, but that there was a good chance of obtaining restitution for claims concerning the farm lands in the Fraser Valley which were sold by the Custodian to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Out of this hearing by the Commissioner and presentation of all claims, evidence will be produced which would be on record and is something you can use as material for further strong protest of losses and representation to Parliament re-iterating the stand that the terms of reference were narrow. Later this material can be used to gain a wider terms of reference.

A Manitoba delegate asked Mr. Brewin the following question: It is known that in the States legal fees are quite often charged on a basis of percentage levied on awards granted. Would a Canadian lawyer consider handling this case on such a basis?

Mr. Brewin replied that in the States many large legal firms are able to give free time to worthy causes as they can afford to do so because of large practices, but in Eastern Canada, "I can state confidently that no good lawyer would be able to undertake a case on such terms no matter how sympathetic they may be to the cause without adequate re-muneration based on an initial fee charge."

Chairman; K. Tanaka, stated to Mr. Brewin under the circumstances we know the losses for claims to be justified. Is it not expensive to pay $ 10,000.00 to get evidence? Should not the charge be much less. As the terms are so narrow and with the majority of cases the claims can be considered hopeless, in the matter of gaining restitution. The expen-diture of that $10,000.00 would be actually for the benefit of a few that have a good case. (Those whose Fraser Valley's property were sold to Dept. of Veterans' Affairs).

Mr. Brewin stated that it is worthwhile to present claims to the Commissioner as the presentation of the evidence is not wasted even if you don't succeed in gaining restitu-tion. It is a matter of approach. One should not be pessimistic, but fight every inch and not let things go by default. He added to take the course of accepting terms of re-ference would be a good point. It must be pointed out that it may take two or three years for some sort of decision from the Government. Mr. Brewin stated that in any course of action leading to boycott it is only effective as long as you get 100% co-operation amongst the claimants, to take this stand it might have an effect on the Government re-garding its attitude to widen the narrow terms of reference, but if such were the case, it would still be necessary to present claims in the same manner as is now necessary. Either way, to boycott or accept the present terms of reference might gain immediate results. Either approach may result in receiving nothing at all, and both alternatives would necessitate the expenditure in the long run of $ 10,000.00.

The Ontario delegate, George Tanaka, put this question to Mr. Brewin: He stated to Mr. Brewin that he realized the question he was about to put might be difficult in answering.

The question: Which course of action would Mr. Brewin advise the claimants to take; the boycott or to accept the present terms of reference. Mr. Brewin stressed that it was very difficult for him to answer such a question specifically as he himself was not a claimant. If it was possible to get 100% unity from the claimants, it was his opinion that the attitude of boycott might be the best. He assured the delegates that the Co-operative Committee would go out on a campaign based on the plan of boycott until some-thing was gained should such a course of action be taken by the claimants. He stressed that if no assurance could be gained which would give 100% united action from the claim-ants across Canada, it would be far wiser to take the course of action of accepting the terms of reference and it was his opinion that under the present circumstances it would be difficult to gain such unity amongst the claimants and he advised accepting the terms of reference as such a course would eventually lead to a stronger case for the claimants than at the present time, for which future representation to the Government for losses suffered by the evacuees arising out of the forced evacuation could be made.

The Montreal delegate, R. Okuda, asked Mr. Brewin the following question:

Could you tell us the probable attitude of the Government should we reject the terms of reference and to what extent they would be influenced by public opinion regarding the un-fair terms of reference. In other words, would they be likely to widen the terms of re-ference or would they take advantage of it as a good reason to dismiss the whole question altogether concerning the evacuees' claims for losses. (Concluded on Page 8)

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